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Isaiah the words are quite intelligible. Professor Bertholet's emendation ים דרך for דרום in vs. 23 commends itself.

The commentary is written in an admirable spirit, contains many fine observations and valuable suggestions, and can be most heartily recommended as an introduction to the book.

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DIE BÜCHER DER KÖNIGE. Übersetzt und erklärt. Von RUDOLF KITTEL, ord. Professor der Theologie in Leipzig. (= Abtheilung I, Band V, of "Handkommentar zum Alten Testament," in Verbindung mit anderen Fachgelehrten herausgegeben von Professor W. Nowack.) Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1900. Pp. xvi + 312. M. 6.

THE author of this commentary is well known from his history of the Hebrews, which is a sufficient guarantee for the excellence of the work before us. He is a representative of a thorough, sober, scientific scholarship which has no pet theories to exhibit, but aims at the most natural and obvious interpretation of biblical facts. Solidity thus, rather than brilliancy, characterizes his work. In the present commentary three distinct purposes are held in view: in connection with the translation, the restoration of the original text, the exhibition of the literary composition of First and Second Kings, and brief linguistic, historical, and biblico-theological explanations. Under the second of these we have the following results given: The books of First and Second Kings are portions of a great historical work compiled in the spirit of Deuteronomy, containing matter extending from Gen. 2:4 to 2 Kings 24:6. Hence their author or his work is called Rd. The composition or compilation was made just before the fall of the Jewish kingdom, probably under Jehoiachin, soon after 600; *cf.* 2 Kings 14:25 f. This work, at least so much of it as is found in First and Second Kings, was revised by another deuteronomistic writer of the period of the exile, who lived after 561 (*cf.* 2 Kings 25:27), but probably not after the restoration, since that event is not mentioned. To this writer belongs the chronological system of First and Second Kings. A further slight revision took place after the time of Ezra. The material from these three writers is indicated by the use of three varieties of type. The compiled matter has likewise a distinct type. Its probable sources are also distinguished by letters on the margin. Thus are shown extracts from a history of David (Da), which appears in First and Second

Samuel and furnishes 1 Kings, chaps. 1, 2; from a history of Solomon (So); from court annals (A); from a history of the temple (T); from the books "of the chronicles" of the kings of Israel and Judah (K); from a history of Elijah (El), of Elisha (Els), of Isaiah (Jes); from an Ephraimite history of Ahab and Jehu (E); and from an analogous Judean history of southern Kings (J). Whether the compiler (Rd) had all of these works, or found the material of some of them only in connection with others (A for example in K), is uncertain. The times of the composition of these sources are given as follows: K of Israel was possibly written shortly after 722 B. C., but perhaps in the reign of Jehoiakim, the time of K of Judah. Both may have come from the same writer. So is considerably earlier, belonging to the period of the preparation of Deuteronomy. El belongs to about 800-780, Els between 780-760, and E about 800. Jes is from a disciple of Isaiah, but considerably later. For J no date is given, but material of the history of Josiah is assigned with interrogation to this source. It belongs, then, near to the period of K of Judah and the compilation of First and Second Kings. A, standing for official records, may be regarded as synchronous in each instance with the events narrated. T is supposed to be a part of the material incorporated in So, and hence antedates that source. This analysis, an accepted result in the main of biblical criticism, is of great value. Thereby a reader is prepared to receive a true idea of the historical character of this portion of the Old Testament. Literary criticism, unfolding sources, is a necessary precursor of historical criticism. The whole tendency of our author, as seen above, is to date the literature as early as possible. For this, however, substantial reasons are given, and thus he defends the truthfulness of many of the records. The character of Elijah, for example, as portrayed in First Kings, is claimed in its leading features to be historical. The parting injunction given by David, commanding the death of Joab and Shimei (1 Kings 2: 1-9), is held to belong to the earliest narrative, and, in spite of the shadow which it casts upon the king's character, is allowed to be authentic.

The textual, philological, grammatical, and geographical notes are compact and very complete. A needed rearrangement of the text is given in certain instances. In 1 Kings, chap. 2, vss. 1 and 2 are properly transposed, and chap. 21 follows chap. 19. Indeed, this commentary throughout is a most thorough and satisfactory work.

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